

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:675
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
TIES WITH INDIAN OCEAN RIM COUNTRIES
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made to foster closer ties with Indian Ocean Rim Countries; and
- (b) the details of the different sectors in which these countries are collaborating with India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) India is working closely with the members of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) to strengthen and consolidate this Association, and to further economic and commercial cooperation between the member countries. A Working Group on Trade and Investment has been set up to consider issues relating to trade liberalisation, facilitation and promotion as well as to economic and technical cooperation. The Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group and the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum also support the efforts of the member Governments in enhancing economic interaction and cooperation among the member countries of the IOR-ARC. The projects undertaken under the aegis of the IOR-ARC include Compilation of Customs Procedures, Compilation of Investment Regimes, The Indian Ocean Rim Online Business Network, Transfer of Technology in the IOR-ARC Region, Maritime Transport, Insurance and Reinsurance, an Investors' Forum, Trade Fair, Tourism Promotion and Development, Cooperation in Standards and Accreditation, etc.